



AMENDMENTS

Please enter the following amended claims and substitute them for original claims with the same corresponding number.

Claim 1 (Twice Amended) A method for enhancing the stability of a triplex formed from one or more nucleic acid strands in a solution, said method comprising adding to the solution in greater than a stoichiometric amount, either before or after formation of the triplex, of either of the following:

- (a) a water structure-making substance other than an alkali or alkaline earth metal cation, a tetramethylammonium cation, or a polyamine; or
- (b) a combination of said water structure-making substance and an alkali or alkaline earth metal cation, a tetramethylammonium cation, or a polyamine.

Claim 31 (Once amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the greater than a stoichiometric amount of the water structure-making substance enhances triplex by effectively decreasing the amount of water at the site of triplex formation.

Claim 32 (Once amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the greater than a stoichiometric amount of the water structure-making substance enhances triplex by effectively decreasing the amount of water at the site of triplex formation.

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 31 and 32 are amended. Claims 3 and 18 are allowed.
2. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and the rejection of claims 1, 14, 16, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102, under Kim et al., and the allowance of claims 3 and 18.
3. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly claim the amount of water structure-making substance for enhanced triplex stability. Claims 31 and 32 have been amended to further